Closing down of ICHR

149. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to close down the Indian Council of Historical Research;

(b) if so, what are the reasons threrefor; and

(c) what are the reasons for frequent transfers in the Council?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There have been no frequent transfers of the employees of the Council in the recent past.

Shortage of seats in Delhi University Colleges

150. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of shortage of seats in various courses in Delhi University and its colleges; and

(b) in what manner Government are going to combat this situation?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) During 1985, a total of 41,226 students have passed higher secondary examination from Delhi and have qualified for admission to various under-graduate courses. As against this, the University can admit 24,878 students to various full-time under-graduate courses, 11,500 to Correspondence Courses, and 3020 students to the Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board. Accordingly, 39,398 students would be able to pursue higher education programmes, leaving a marginal shortfall of about 1800 seats.

Discussion on the sharing of Ganga Waters

151. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had a discussion with the Chief Minister of West Bengal before leaving for Dhaka for a discussion on the sharing of Ganga waters;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps were taken by him in the light of discussion with the Chief Minister?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. I had a discussion with the Chief Minister of West Bengal before leaving for Dhaka for talks on the Ganga waters issue. The Chief Minister indicated the water requirements of the Calcutta Port and for irrigation in West Bengal from Ganga waters. These were kept in view along with other relevant factors during the discussions with Bangladesh.

Construction by Bangladesh of an Embankment along the Kodla River

152. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the construction of an embankment by the Bangladesh Government along the Kodla River running along the Indo-Bangladesh border is likely to cause flooding of large area of the Bongaon sub-division of 24-Parganas in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, steps Government have taken to save the area?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND). (a) Yes, Sir.